

Dear Commerce Committee -

I am a paralegal, notary public and Justice of the Peace, as well as a consumer of recent real estate transactions in Connecticut. Remote notarization would be an opportunity for professionals like me to establish a new business after having been a notary for 20 years. I have done several notarizations through the years, but at the maximum statutory charge of \$5.00 is it hardly worth the effort.

I feel that S.B.99 does not fully represent the stakeholders of remote notarization. First of all, the bill seeks to include "notary associations". I conducted an internet search to find out if there are any Connecticut "notary associations" and there are **none**. There is one **national** association (nationalnotary.org). I would respectfully request that the bill be modified to ensure that notaries who are Connecticut residents be represented in this working group. In fact, I think several registered notaries should be appointed. Likewise, the bill also cites the inclusion of "title insurance industry and the mortgage industry". Again, there is no requirement that representatives from these industries are Connecticut residents. Finally, the bill does not appoint Connecticut consumers to this working group.

I think the working group should also include insurance companies who may need to insure for errors & omissions and potentially software companies that would be able to store recordings. These are all additional costs that notaries would need to incur if they offer this service. In conjunction with that, the statutory minimum needs to be addressed and reviewed on a regular basis.

I hope the Committee will consider these points. Thank you.

Jen Zakrzewski